

**ABSTRACT**

The invention relates to a commercial package for determining the concentration of heme oxygenase-1 (HO-1) and/or a nucleotide sequence encoding HO-1 in tissue obtained from a patient, wherein the commercial package is used to predict the onset of, diagnose, or prognosticate a dementing disease. The tissue is suitably plasma, lymphocytes, cerebrospinal fluid or fibroblasts. The commercial package is useful where the dementing disease is any of Alzheimer's Disease, Age-Associated Cognitive Decline, Progressive Supranuclear Palsy, Vascular (i.e. multi-infarct) Dementia, Lewy Body Dementia, Huntington's Disease, Down's syndrome, normal pressure hydrocephalus, corticobasal ganglionic degeneration, multisystem atrophy, head trauma, Creutzfeld-Jacob disease, viral encephalitis and hypothyroidism.